



*Community residents view displays at a town hall meeting.*

**Award Amount**  
\$430,000

**Watershed**  
Sun Valley Watershed

**County**  
Los Angeles County

**CALFED Region**  
Southern California Region

**Legislative Districts**  
US Congress: 27 and 28  
State Assembly: 38, 39, and 43  
State Senate: 17, 20, and 21

## **Purpose**

To develop a Watershed Management Plan and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Sun Valley Watershed to assist in a pilot flood control and rainfall capture program.

## **Project Goals**

- Develop a watershed management plan through a community process.
- Recharge and reuse an annual average of 2,100 acre-feet of rainfall from a 2,800-acre urban watershed tributary to the Los Angeles River.
- Reduce flooding and provide greater open space and recreational opportunities in this underserved community in the east San Fernando Valley.
- Reduce pollutant loading from urban runoff to the Los Angeles River.

## **Benefits to the CALFED Program**

*The CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program identifies implementation of water conservation and reuse measures as a primary focus in Southern California, a region that imports large amounts of Bay-Delta water. This project addresses chronic flooding problems in the Sun Valley Watershed by capturing, recharging, and/or reusing rainfall in the watershed and will result in conserving an annual average of approximately 2,100 acre-feet of water. In addition, the development of a watershed management plan with the local citizens empowers the community to develop solutions for a chronic flooding problem and increases local understanding of the importance of water conservation. As a pilot project that could be replicated elsewhere, this project stands to provide a large cumulative benefit to the CALFED Program.*

## Project Overview

The Sun Valley Watershed Management and Replenishment Project is a pilot watershed management project by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Department). The objective of the project is to retrofit a developed urban watershed with nontraditional structural best management practices (BMPs) to solve severe flooding conditions while retaining rainfall (approximately 2,100 acre-feet per year), increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution. The purpose of the current phase of this project is to develop a watershed management plan and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report through a comprehensive community outreach and education program.

The Sun Valley Watershed is a 2,800-acre urban watershed tributary to the Los Angeles River, located northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The watershed includes the community of Sun Valley and portions of North Hollywood. The community is subject to chronic flooding conditions that have been present in the watershed for more than 30 years. Traditionally, flood control agencies like the Department have addressed these types of flooding conditions by constructing single purpose storm drains, which carry rainfall, a valuable resource, straight to the ocean. In the past, such a solution was proposed to address the flooding conditions in the watershed at an estimated construction cost of \$40 to \$45 million. In lieu of constructing storm drains, this pilot project implements the following structural BMPs to reduce flooding and capture rainfall in the watershed: dry wells, enhancement of rainfall absorption into the soil through mulching, multi-use of rainfall retention basins, pavement removal in areas such as schoolyards and parking lots, porous pavement, shallow grassy on-site retention systems (swales, basins, etc.), tree planting, underground municipal rainfall storage facilities, and underground residential cisterns.



*Sun Valley residents are kept apprised of watershed news and project developments through public meetings and newsletters.*

## Contact Information

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